

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00672 272329Z

11

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19

DRC-01 MMS-03 /172 W

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R 272230Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2887

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IN US UK UN

SUBJ: MADAGASCAR STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN (DIEGO GARCIA)

REF: STATE 036202

1. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION REPORTED USUN 625 BRITISH SENT

FOLLOWING LETTER TO RABETAFIKA ON 22 FEB:

QUOTE: I READ WITH INTEREST THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF
YOUR GOVERNMENT ABOUT PLANS FOR EXPANDING CERTAIN FACILITIES

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00672 272329Z

ON DIEGO GARCIA WHICH YOU SENT RECENTLY TO THE CHAIRMAN

OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.

THERE HAS BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEED TO PREVENT A NAVAL BUILD-UP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA AND INDEED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT REAFFIRMS ITS OPPOSITION TO POLICIES BASED ON ZONES OF INFLUENCE AND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY BASES OUTSIDE NATIONAL TERRITORIES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, I WONDER IF I COULD INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING FACTS ABOUT THE SOVIET NAVAL BUILD-UP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THESE SEEM TO HAVE GONE LARGELY UNNOTICED:

(A) A SOVIET NAVAL GROUP WAS DEPLOYED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IN 1968.

(B) THIS FLEET HAS BEEN PROGRESSIVELY INCREASED BOTH IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY AND NOW INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

A MODERNIZED SVERDLOV-CLASS CRUISER:

A DESTROYER ARMED WITH SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES:

A CONVENTIONAL DESTROYER:

4 ESCORTS:

4 SUBMARINES, INCLUDING A LONG-RANGE CRUISE MISSILE

FIRER:

AN AMPHIBIOUS SHIP: AND

OVER A DOZEN SUPPORT SHIPS.

(C) THE SOVIET NAVAL FORCES MAKE REGULAR USE OF BERBERA IN SOMALILAND FOR MAINTENANCE AND RECREATION; AND THEY HAVE SHORE ACCOMMODATION AND A REPAIR SHIP THERE TO COMPLEMENT THESE FACILITIES.

(D) THE SOVIET NAVAL FORCES ALSO MAKE REGULAR UNIMPEDED USE OF THE PORT OF ADEN.

(E) A SOVIET MINESWEEPING FORCE SENT TO BANGLADESH AFTER THE 1971 INDO/PAKISTAN WAR IS STILL THERE.

(SIGNED) DONALD MAITLAND UNQUOTE.

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00672 272329Z

2. AS INSTRUCTED REFTTEL, AMB SCALI, AFTER COORDINATION WITH BRITISH, SENT FOLLOWING LETTER TO RABETAFIKA 26 FEB:

QUOTE: I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADAGASCAR ABOUT PLANS FOR EXPANDING FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA, WHICH WAS CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN.

WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST I NOTED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO "ANY POLICY BASED ON ZONES OF INFLUENCE AND HEGEMONY, AND TO ANY ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY BASES OUTSIDE NATIONAL TERRITORIES."

I HAVE, OF COURSE, TRANSMITTED THE TEXT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT TO WASHINGTON FOR THE ATTENTION OF OFFICIALS OF MY GOVERNMENT. FOR THE SAKE OF CANDOR RATHER THAN CONTENTION, I WOULD OFFER THE PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT THE MALAGASY GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT MIGHT HAVE HAD GREATER IMPACT AS AN EXPRESSION OF A NON-ALIGNED POINT OF VIEW HAD THE PRESENCE OF A SIGNIFICANT SOVIET NAVAL BUILD-UP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SINCE 1968 NOT BEEN OVERLOOKED.

SINCERELY,
(SIGNED) JOHN SCALI UNQUOTE.
SCALI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, NAVAL FORCES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN00672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974024/aaaaadwh.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 036202
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MADAGASCAR STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN (DIEGO GARCIA)
TAGS: MARR, IN, US, UK, XO, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005